

or preclude anyone from achieving success and providing for his or her family.

The enactment of the EPA was only the first step, and while women's salaries have risen dramatically, we have more work to do to end employment and pay discrimination.

Let's remember that all Americans are created equal and deserve equal treatment.

We should keep that in mind, not just today on this anniversary, but every day.

CONGRATULATING PATTY DURANT, RECIPIENT OF THE AHWATUKEE FOOTHILLS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2009 WOMEN IN BUSINESS PALO VERDE AWARD

**HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 10, 2009*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the achievements of Patty Durant as the recipient of the 2009 Women in Business Palo Verde Award. The Ahwatukee Foothills Chamber recently honored Patty at the Ahwatukee Women in Business Faces of Success event, which recognizes present and future businesswomen. The award is given to female Chamber members who are role models for other women in business.

Patty is involved with her local business community in many different ways. She is a long-time Ahwatukee Foothills Chamber of Commerce member, treasurer of the Board of Directors, and past chairwomen of its women in business committee. For the past two years, she has served on the Tukee Home Tour committee, a group which organizes events to allow participants the opportunity to view remodeled homes in the community. In addition to her involvement with the chamber, she is a sales representative for Ahwatukee Foothills and Tempe offices of Empire Title Agency.

Presently, Patty serves as a co-chair of the Chamber Scholarship sub-committee, evi-

dence of her commitment to the support of future businesswomen. At the same event at which she was honored for her achievements, she presented 2009 Desert Vista High School graduate Dana Wygle with the Ahwatukee Chamber of Commerce Women in Business Scholarship award.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Patty Durant for her contributions to her local business community and her efforts to encourage the endeavors of future businesswomen.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2009 SHELTER HOUSE, INC. VOLUNTEER AWARDS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 10, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Shelter House, Inc., and more particularly the contributions that its volunteers make in service to our community. Shelter House and its outstanding volunteers serve Northern Virginia by coming to the aid of some of those most in need of support and assistance. Volunteers are critical in helping Shelter House achieve its mission of breaking the cycle of homelessness by providing crisis intervention, temporary housing, training, counseling, and programs to promote self sufficiency.

Shelter House is a community-based, non-profit organization. It was formed in 1981 when several ecumenical groups came together to better serve low-income individuals and families. Shelter House operates two shelters, the Katherine K. Hanley Family Shelter and the Patrick Henry Family Shelter, which provide temporary housing for families in our community who find themselves homeless. In addition, Shelter House offers transitional housing services throughout Fairfax County. As part of the effort to stop the cycle of homelessness, the services provided by Shelter

House continue even after individuals enter permanent housing.

Individuals, organizations, and businesses dedicate their time, money, and wherewithal to help Shelter House succeed in its efforts to end homelessness in Fairfax County. These relationships are critical assets to Shelter House and a leading cause for its successes. Shelter House has recognized the specific contributions from its partners and volunteers and named the following recipients of its 2009 Volunteer Awards: Ending Homelessness Award: Lord of Life Lutheran Church; Youth Volunteer Award: Simrun Soni; Unsung Hero Award: Mary Joyce; Special Events Award: Jack and Jill of Northern Virginia; Friend of Shelter House Kids Award for the Patrick Henry Family Shelter: Ira Kirschbaum; Friend of Shelter House Kids Award for the Katherine K. Hanley Family Shelter: Ron Koch; Community Partner Award for the Patrick Henry Family Shelter: Interior Redesign Industry Specialists, National Capitol Area; Community Partner Award for the Katherine K. Hanley Family Shelter: Clifton Community Women's Club; and Community Champion Awards: Miller and Smith; Junior League of Northern Virginia and Capital One.

The outstanding efforts of the above-mentioned individuals and organizations merit special recognition, but one must acknowledge the impact of all Shelter House volunteers who work to provide secure and structured environments for families and connect them with the supportive services they require. These volunteers help make Shelter House one of the most effective organizations in the battle to end homelessness by empowering families to reach their full potential.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our gratitude for the efforts of these volunteers and their colleagues at Shelter House. The selfless commitment of these individuals provides enumerable benefits to Northern Virginia as a community as well as life-changing services to the individuals in need.